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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

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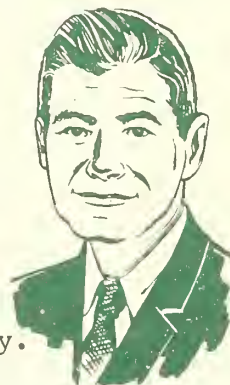
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SECRETARY FREEMAN MOBILIZES USDA FOR RAD

■ Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has mobilized the full resources of the Department to help local people inject new economic vitality into rural America.

The Secretary told a news conference that the directives he issued November 2 "formally put into motion the Rural Areas Development (RAD) program authorized by Congress in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 on the recommendation of this Administration."

The directives established policy and assigned to Agriculture Department agencies responsibilities for various segments of the program. These included resource conservation and development projects; rural renewal programs; and long-term changes of land from crops to conservation and recreation uses. Previous directives provided for watershed recreation development and municipal and industrial water supply.



"In every case," the Secretary said, "I have made local initiative and leadership the first criterion for Department help under the new programs. The Federal government can provide incentives and technical services, but government cannot and should not do the conservation and development job for local people on privately owned land.

"The challenge in the use of the new tools provided by Congress is to the leadership of the people of rural America. Thousands of people, living up to the tradition born in rural America of local effort to meet local problems, have already accepted the challenge," the Secretary said.

Secretary Freeman noted that the local leadership has demonstrated its worth in soil and water conservation districts, rural electrification and other cooperatives, farmer committees, and the more than 1,500 local rural areas development committees.



In announcing these new RAD tools, the Secretary also mentioned other major resources for conservation and development, which are important to this total nationwide program of revitalizing rural America. Among these programs are the Area Redevelopment Act, by which nearly 750 predominately rural counties are eligible for loans, grants, and technical aid.

"Because of its long service to rural people, the Department of Agriculture has been delegated important responsibilities for this (ARA) program in rural areas designated by the Department of Commerce," the Secretary pointed out.

Secretary Freeman also mentioned the Accelerated Public Works Program, the Senior Citizen Housing Program, the recently enacted Manpower Development and Training Act administered by the Department of Labor, as well as the training provision of the ARA program as important aids in Rural Areas Development work.

"To make the resources of the Department more responsive to the needs of rural people, we have established State and County Technical Action Panels, composed of specialists from agencies with field offices, like ASCS, SCS, and FHA," the Secretary pointed out.

(Copies of the Secretary's statement are available from: Editor, Rural Areas Development Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.)

FHA CAN NOW ACCEPT LOAN APPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION ENTERPRISES

■ The Farmers Home Administration is now accepting loan applications from family farmers for recreation enterprises to supplement their farm incomes. Loans also are available to nonprofit associations of farms and other rural residents to cover costs involved in shifting land to new and more economic uses, including recreation.



On family farms, among the enterprises that now may be financed by FHA loan funds are camping grounds, swimming facilities, tennis courts, riding stables, vacation cottages, lodges, lakes and ponds for water sports, docks, nature trails, picnic grounds and hunting preserves.

The maximum farmers can borrow for operating costs of recreational enterprises is \$35,000. The maximum they can borrow to develop the land and buildings for recreation is \$60,000. Operating loans are made for up to seven years. Real estate loans are for up to 40 years. Both types of loans carry an interest rate of 5 percent.

Nonprofit associations may borrow up to \$500,000 to finance recreation developments, such as lakes, lake shores, parks, golf courses and ski slopes -- when the loan is made from appropriated FHA funds, or as much as \$1 million when the loan is made from FHA-insured funds. Interest rate is 4.5 percent on direct loans, and 5 percent on insured loans. The maximum term is 40 years.

ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM PUTS PEOPLE TO WORK

■ A week after Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture got the go-ahead to start projects, about 5,000 people, previously without work, were employed. Thus one of the primary aims of the Accelerated Public Works Program was being accomplished by this USDA agency. This is a RAD tool.

And, as a result, countless thousands of other people, will benefit too. These newly employed workers are busy clearing land for new family units for camping and picnicking, installing campfire grates, and working on tables and benches.

The Department of Interior has created more than 1,700 new jobs through its conservation projects, accelerated under the new program. These men are planting trees and rangeland, constructing recreation facilities, building roads in 21 states.



The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has used its first funds, allotted under the program, to speed up construction of hospital and nursing homes, thus providing immediate employment for more persons.

The Accelerated Public Works Program is coordinated by the Areas Redevelopment Administration in the U. S. Department of Commerce.

FOUR ARA LOANS PROVIDE 422 JOBS IN RURAL AREAS

■ Four recently approved ARA loans will provide employment opportunities for 422 persons in the 5b, or predominately rural areas, eligible for this program:

Mississippi: A \$115,000 combined public facility loan and grant to the city of Bay Springs, will provide 310 jobs for residents of Jasper County, an area of low farm income; 160 jobs will be retained because of the sewage facilities, while 150 new jobs will be created because of the improved public facilities.

Kentucky: A \$144,700 industrial loan at Auburn will assist a church furniture factory to rebuild, thus providing continued employment for 28 workers, thrown out of work by a fire. Thirty-seven more jobs will be created by the expanded and modernized assembly-line operation. A market for the timber grown by local family forest owners will be reestablished.

Minnesota: A \$27,000 industrial loan will create 25 new jobs in Blackduck. It will make possible the expansion of a machine tool fire.

Texas: Two direct new jobs will result from a \$7,150 industrial loan to the Red River County Agricultural Improvement Association, Clarksville. The money will help the Association establish a beef performance test center. This will indirectly add significantly to the cash price returns for the small, low income farmers in the area when the quality of beef cattle is upgraded.

FHA MAKES FIRST RURAL SENIOR HOUSING LOAN IN ALABAMA



The first rural housing loan to an elderly couple under the Senior Citizens Housing Act of 1962 was closed in Attalla, Ala. The loan, \$6,120, was made by Farmers Home Administration to Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Montgomery, both 64, to build a new home. Under the Act persons 62 years of age and over can participate in the housing program. The loans bear 4 percent interest and may be paid back over a period of not to exceed 33 years. The new program also provides for the establishment of an insured loan program to enable commercial concerns to build rental housing for the elderly, as well as authorization of direct loans to private nonprofit corporations and cooperatives to provide rental housing for the elderly. However, no funds were made available for direct loans in FY 1963. Funds will be requested of Congress next year. Additional information on the FHA elderly housing program may be had by writing: Director of Information, Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

FAMILY PLAYGROUND BECOMES COMMUNITY RECREATION SITE

By popular demand, the Salyer family of Binger, Oklahoma, turned their family playground--a lake--into a community recreational enterprise offering swimming, fishing and picnicking for a fee. The project was started by Bert Salyer nearly 40 years ago as a place for his grandsons to swim. Later, the addition of a nearby state highway brought a demand from passerbys for an opportunity to swim and fish. Today an average summer day will find from 25 to 100 people at the lake. On Sundays, the attendance will jump to 800 or more.

NEW HAMPSHIRE AREA PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM WATERSHED

A flood-free highway, new recreation facilities and 500 acres of improved farmland top the list of community benefits packed into the 15-square-mile Oliverian Brook Watershed Project in Grafton County, New Hampshire. The project resulted from long range planning by local people augmented by State and Federal technical aid and cost-sharing programs. Thus, the people of New Hampshire took the initiative to solve their own problems. And when they asked for help, the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture responded. This is rural areas development at work.

INFORMATION TOOLS TO AID RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

Single copies of these publications are available from Editor, Rural Areas Development Newsletter, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

"Farm families, youths, operators, workers and the Manpower Development and Training Act", describing how provisions of this Act may benefit qualified farm families.

"Your Agricultural Experiment Station", a leaflet reporting how these stations can provide primary scientific information for rural areas development.

"Federal Handbook for Small Business", a survey of small business programs in the Federal Government agencies.

"Forest Products Co-op Shows Sturdy Growth", a reprint of a feature about Michigan tree farmers who joined forces to market their product, and improve their incomes.

"Pathways to Rural Progress", detailing how Farmers Home Administration's expanded loan programs accelerate rural development.